



HEADQUARTERS
One Lochside
1 Lochside Avenue
Edinburgh
EH12 9DJ

Our Ref: HQ25426 & HQ25463

30 January 2026

Dear

Thank you for your request dated 1 January 2026 under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOI(S)A).

For reference, you requested:

RFI 1: “I wish to make a Freedom of Information Request for the number of drug over doses within the prison estate in 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 & 2025.”

We have now completed our search for the information you requested.

RFI 1 Response: Whilst we endeavour to provide information where possible unfortunately under section 17 of FOI(S)A we are unable to provide the information in the format you requested when you provided clarification. We are unable to separate Self-Harm Drug Overdose and Drug Death Overdose as we would require the Medical Certificate of Cause of Death (MCCD) to identify Drug Overdose as a cause of death. You can find the details on our website. I have provided the link to be helpful [Death in custody | Scottish Prison Service](#).

The figures that you will see in the table below incorporates self-harm overdose and drug death overdose.

Year	Total
2015	45
2016	44
2017	42
2018	39
2019	25
2020	20
2021	39
2022	21
2023	12
2024	56
2025	64

I note that you have made another request for this information and this has been recorded as HQ25463. Please take this response as the response to both HQ25426 and HQ25463.

This concludes our response to your request.

If you are unhappy with this response to your request, you may ask us to conduct an internal review, by writing to The Chief Executive, One Lochside, 1 Lochside Avenue, Edinburgh, EH12 9DJ. Your request should explain why you wish a review to be conducted and should be made within forty working days of receipt of this letter, and we will reply within twenty working days of receipt. If you are not satisfied with the result of the review, you then have the right to make a formal complaint to the Scottish Information Commissioner.

Yours sincerely

Operational Advisor